



**THE  
MECHANICK'S  
ADVISOR**

*12/7/2023*

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# Apothecary

*Sunday through Thursday*

Margaret made an antiepileptic electuary (a paste ingested for nervous system disorders like epilepsy) that includes valerian root, an ingredient whose derivatives are still used in certain epilepsy-related contexts. In pursuit of more information on Storck's poison-derived cancer treatments, Stephannie found a literature review from earlier this year (in *Frontiers in Pharmacology*) that synthesizes promising results from 37 pre-clinical studies on anti-tumor effects of aconitine (a monkshood alkaloid.) Sharon encountered the first example of lithotomy - bladder stone removal - in a 1792/93 Galt-Barraud daybook!

- Margaret Perry



*The binding agent in Margaret's electuary was a syrup of orange peel, which is still somehow more photogenic than the final compound.*

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# Carpenter

*Sunday through Tuesday, Friday and Saturday*

The carpenters are working on a few different projects right now. We are prepping for the stair case work for the brick yard drying house as well as making plaster lath from twisted clapboards. McKinley has been working on the Bray school with Steve and Scott. Mary has been making a new draw bench for the lath and shingles coming out way.

*- Matthew Sanbury*



*Mary's draw bench under way.*



*The beginnings of another bundle of plaster lath.*

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# Gunsmith

*Sunday through Thursday*

Richard continues to refine the pistol barrel for the single pistol he is working on for a customer while Darrin forged out a pair of bullet mold halves that will end up going with the pair of pistols he has been working on.

The two halves are forged out to be the same and then filed, fit, riveted and cherried to the proper bullet size.

*- Darrin McDonald*



*Here are the two as forged halves of the bullet mold and the pattern used as a reference.*

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# Harpsichord Maker

*Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*

Melanie has prepared the all the veneer that will cover the top edge of the spinet case. This way we avoid the unsightly look (to 18th century eyes) of the veneer and substrate edge view. See the picture of the case and you'll see what we mean. While on that, she found a couple of damaged spots on the case veneer and patched them with new pieces really well. You would never know what happened. She planed out beautiful mouldings for the outer case a few months ago. We reserved all of it for that use. Ed has planed more walnut mouldings to finish the inner rim after the soundboard goes into the case for good. Again, the trim gives a more handsome finish to the overall effect of the assembly. Mouldings are great for covering up joins, corners, and, dare we say, sometimes a few woodworking sins left behind. Come see the results of our efforts. - *Edward Wright*

*Spinet case top edge before veneering*



*Melanie patching damaged veneer.*



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# Joiner

*Sunday through Thursday*

The Joiners have reached a very busy time of year! Between the upcoming Holidays with lots of visitors and some projects for around town, they are deep in preparations for January's Working Wood in the 18th century conference. This year's theme is "By the Book", which will see Peter and Brian exploring the connections between designs of doors from pattern books and an Eastern Shore blanket chest. They've begun making parts for it and will be demonstrating some construction techniques during the conference. Laura will be conducting a session with Rockefeller librarians Doug Mayo and Marianne Martin on how our library is a valuable resource for our work.

We'd also like to welcome our newest volunteer, Rikk, who currently assisting on the construction of some benches for the Bray School.

*- Laura Hollowood*

*The Joiner's shop is now decked out for the holidays!*



*Brian uses a plane to shape parts for the blanket chest reproduction.*

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# Military Programs

*Open Daily*

Military Programs welcomed new Raleigh Tavern Society members, Cal Huntzinger and Laura Kienle, to the Magazine Yard and Guardhouse. Both Cal and Laura are avid 18th century enthusiasts who spent two weeks at CWF living in one of our colonial homes and wearing 18th century dress full-time. Military Programs Interpreters Christopher and Ren enjoyed spending several hours with our guests over two days discussing military history, equipment and uniforming. Cal even brought us his excellent Dragoon's helmet! Military Programs culminated the experience with Cal and Laura acting as Linstock for a special cannon firing.

*- Terence Christian*



*Military Programs Interpreter Christopher with Raleigh Tavern Society Members Cal and Laura.*

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# Shoemaker

*Open Daily*

Nicole has finished the pumps and overshoes and has now moved to the final stage of her apprenticeship, which involves long-work (boots and gaiters). Victoria has been busy with learning turn-shoe construction and making char cloth for the colder days. Val finished covering a box with marbled paper (courtesy of the bindery), to house the embroidered baby shoes he made earlier this year. He is also beginning a pair of common shoes for one of the gardeners. The shop is also readying our wreath for Saturday.

*- Valentine Pavinelli*



*Nicole's completed dress pumps.*



*Marbled paper box with baby shoes.*

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# Wheelwright

*Sunday through Friday*

Work continues on the wagon, and wheelbarrows for Lewes Historical Society in Delaware.



*Fore under-carriage installed on Wagon.*



*Wagon together.*

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# Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers

*Sunday through Wednesday, Saturday*

With such grim and gloomy days this past week, I'd like to brighten your day with color! Specifically, the color yellow. Yellow dyes are what we call light fugitive. This means that when fabric is dyed yellow using natural dyes one only has a few hours of that sunny color in the light of day before it begins to fade to white. It was a symbol of wealth in the 18th Century for just that reason! Something like this yellow silk detail from a 1772 sample book would have been a flashy thing to wear.

*- Pamela Russo*



*Yellow silk twilled  
over linen and  
cotton from a  
Manchester, UK  
sample book  
housed in the  
MET's collection.*

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# Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Bookbinder**
  - *Tuesday through Sunday*
- **Cabinet Maker**
  - *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*
- **Cooper**
  - *Tuesday through Sunday*
- **Famer**
  - *Tuesday through Saturday*
- **Fife and Drum**
- **Founder**
  - *Tuesday through Sunday*
- **Historic Masonry**
  - *Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday*
- **Milliner and Mantua-Maker**
  - *Tuesday through Saturday*
- **Musket Range**
  - *Ticket Event*
- **Shoemaker**
  - *Daily*
- **Silversmith**
  - *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*
- **Tin Plate Worker**
  - *Tuesday through Saturday*
- **Wigmaker**
  - *Sunday through Thursday*
- **Wheelwright**
  - *Sunday through Friday*

*Editor.*

*Matthew Siepinski*